

[Wirral Intelligence Service Bulletin – Additional Content – August 2020](#)

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

What is happening to life expectancy in the UK?

The emergence of Covid-19 in 2020 will have significant implications for life expectancy. [In this updated piece, Kings Fund examine](#) trends in life expectancy at birth up to 2019, gender differences, geographical inequalities, how the UK compares with other countries, and possible causes of the slowing mortality improvements in recent years. Veena also assesses how Covid-19 could have an impact on life expectancy in 2020

Living standards, poverty, and inequality in the UK: 2020

This [IFS report examines](#) how living standards - most commonly measured by households' incomes - were changing in the UK up to approximately the eve of the current Covid-19 crisis, using the latest official household income data covering years up to 2018-19. It particularly focuses on how this differed for different groups, and what this meant for poverty and inequality. The report gives a comprehensive account of where we stood before the current crisis, including for groups who we now know have subsequently had their economic lives turned upside down.

Gender recognition and the rights of transgender people (House of Commons Library - July 2020)

This [briefing paper](#) considers the current law relating to gender recognition; the medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria; the current protections from discrimination; consultations by the UK government and the Scottish government on reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004; and the 'self-identification' debate.

Involving marginalised older people in group activities is key to achieving equality.

This [new briefing and practical workbook](#) detail a spatial approach to working with marginalised communities. The model considers the size and geographical distribution of different communities as a way of engaging them in group activities.

Abandoned, forgotten, and ignored: the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on disabled people

This [report](#) highlights the effects of discrimination and inequality on disabled people during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Hungry for change: fixing the failures in food

This [report of the Committee on Food, Poverty, Health and the Environment](#) finds that the UK's food system is failing, putting the health of the population, and of the planet, at risk. It calls on the government to end years of inaction and ensure that a healthy, sustainable diet is accessible for everyone.

Public health transformation seven years on: prevention in neighbourhood, place, and system

The [Local Government Association \(LGA\) 2020 public health annual report](#) showcases examples from 10 areas that demonstrate what can be achieved by public health operating across local government and working closely with the NHS and a wide range of local and system partners.

How to enhance the integration of primary care and public health? Approaches, facilitating factors and policy options (2020)

This [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies policy brief](#) explores how primary care and public health can be brought together to improve the health of patients and populations. It describes the types of initiatives that have been undertaken; provides examples of such initiatives in Europe and beyond; and summarises the factors that can help to enhance or hinder the integration of primary care and public health

Coronavirus: impact on young people with mental health needs

This [second YoungMinds survey](#) with young people by YoungMinds investigating the mental health impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic shows that many are under increasing pressure and struggling to get the right support. The report reflects the results of a survey with 2,036 young people aged 13-25 with a history of mental health problems, carried out between 6 June and 5 July. It follows on from a similar survey carried out in March, at the start of the lockdown period.

Building a country that works for all children post Covid-19

The [purpose of this short discussion paper](#) is: to put children, young people and their lived experiences of Covid-19 front and centre in national recovery planning; to articulate what is needed to restore the public support services they rely on; and to capture the positives and gains made during a very complex national, and indeed, global emergency. It is clear that the pandemic, ensuing lockdown and enduring social distancing measures have simultaneously exposed and heightened the impact of stark disparities between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers, from ill health and poor-quality housing to children's access to technology and therefore opportunities to learn at home.

Living longer: trends in subnational ageing across the United Kingdom.

ONS have published the [subnational ageing tool](#) and an accompanying article [Living longer: trends in subnational ageing across the United Kingdom](#).

The subnational ageing tool allows users to compare current and projected indicators of ageing between up to four UK countries, regions, and local authorities. The tool contains demographic indicators of ageing (e.g. median age, percentage of the population aged 65 years and over) and other indicators e.g. economic activity for older persons, one-person households containing an older person and life expectancy

Townscapes: England's health inequalities

This [new report](#) produced by [Bennett Institute for Public Policy at Cambridge University](#), seeks to supply a richer and more evidence-based appreciation of the spatial variation of various major health outcomes, focusing in particular on the strikingly divergent experiences of people living in poorer and wealthier towns across England. In the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, an understanding of these underlying patterns, and an appreciation of the factors and dynamics that generate such poor outcomes for people living in some of our most deprived places, is going to be vital. The pandemic is exacerbating these disadvantages and having a much greater impact on the lives and health of those who are currently most vulnerable to conditions of deprivation

The hidden impact of Covid-19 on patient care in the NHS in England

The Covid-19 pandemic led to an extensive shift in the package of care provided by the NHS as hospitals had to prepare for a large surge in patients requiring intensive care. While these changes meant that intensive care did not have to be rationed to Covid-19 patients, data indicates that the shutdown of most non-Covid services, combined with drastic changes in patient behaviour, mean the NHS is now facing a large backlog of non-Covid-19 care, storing up greater problems for the future. This [BMA paper investigates](#) the extent to which non-Covid care has been disrupted over April, May and June 2020, and the likely impact this will have in the longer term.

Primary care networks: one year on

This [NHS Confederation report](#) assesses the progress of primary care networks (PCNs), a year after they were established. It finds that, while the picture nationally is one of variation, progress has been made in several areas. Many PCNs have significantly expanded their use of digital platforms, allowing more patients to be seen during Covid-19, and built strong new relationships with other partners across primary care.

Sources of statistics on inequalities between ethnic groups

This [briefing paper](#) provides a list of links to statistical and other related resources on differences by ethnic group in a range of topics including health, justice, employment and income. Material is listed by type of resource (e.g. House of Commons Library publications, government publications and independent reviews).

Greater lifestyle engagement is associated with better age-adjusted cognitive abilities.

Previous evidence suggests that modifiable lifestyle factors, such as engagement in leisure activities, might slow the age-related decline of cognitive functions. Less is known, however, about which aspects of lifestyle might be particularly beneficial to healthy cognitive ageing, and whether they are associated with distinct cognitive domains (e.g. fluid and crystallized abilities) differentially. The [authors investigated these questions in the cross-sectional Cambridge Centre for Ageing and Neuroscience](#) (Cam-CAN) data (N = 708, age 18-88), using data-driven exploratory structural equation modelling, confirmatory factor analyses, and age-residualised measures of cognitive differences across the lifespan.

Lonely places or lonely people? Investigating the relationship between loneliness and place of residence

Loneliness in later life is largely presented as a problem of the individual focusing upon antecedents such as demographic or health factors. Research examining the role of the broader living environments is much rarer. [The authors examined the relationship between loneliness and three dimensions of the lived environment](#): geographical region, deprivation, and area classification (urban or rural).

Relationships between health outcomes in older populations and urban green infrastructure size, quality, and proximity

[This research](#) considers the influence of urban Green Infrastructure (GI) on population health is mediated by green-space form, quantity, accessibility, and vegetation health. People in urban neighbourhoods that are characterised by lower income and older age populations are disproportionately healthy if their neighbourhoods contain accessible, good quality public green-space. This has implications for strategies to decrease health inequalities and inform international initiatives, such as the World Health Organisation's Age-Friendly Cities programme.

The social value of investing in public health across the life course: a systematic scoping review

[This review](#) contributes to the growing evidence base that demonstrates the use of social value methodologies within the field of public health. By mapping evidence across stages of the life course, this study can be used as a starting point by public health professionals and institutions to take forward current thinking about moving away from traditional economic measures, to capturing social value when investing in interventions across the life course.

Day centres for older people - attender characteristics, access routes and outcomes of regular attendance: findings of exploratory mixed methods case study research

Social prescribing is encouraged to promote well-being, reduce isolation and loneliness. Traditional, generalist day centres for older people could be suggested by social prescribing, but little is known about their clientele or their outcomes. As [part of a larger study](#) of the role, outcomes and commissioning of generalist English day centres for older people, the characteristics of attenders at 4 day centres, their reasons for attendance and outcomes were explored.

Usual physical activity and subsequent hospital usage over 20 years in a general population: the EPIC-Norfolk cohort

While physical activity interventions have been reported to reduce hospital stays, it is not clear if, in the general population, usual physical activity patterns may be associated with subsequent hospital use independently of other lifestyle factors. [The authors examined](#) the relationship between reported usual physical activity and subsequent admissions to hospital and time spent in hospital. Discovering that small feasible differences in usual physical activity in the general population may potentially have a substantial impact on hospital usage and costs.

The dynamics of frailty and change in socio-economic conditions: evidence for the 65+ in Europe

[These results](#) indicate that individuals with worsening economic conditions (wealth and subjective deprivation) over time simultaneously experience a rapid increase in the frailty symptoms. Results also show that the nature of economic variable does not affect the frailty process in the same way. Subjective measure of deprivation seems to better evaluate the household's financial difficulties than objective measure.

Beyond the data: understanding the impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups

[This report](#) is a descriptive summary of stakeholder insights into the factors that may be influencing the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities and strategies for addressing inequalities. The report summarises requests for action, which have been used to inform a number of recommendations. It also includes a rapid literature review. These insights will form the basis of the next steps being taken forward by the Equalities Minister.

The geography of the Covid-19 crisis in England

[This report](#) analyses how the health, economic and social impacts of Covid-19 vary around England. It explores which local authorities (LAs) have residents who are more vulnerable to severe Covid-19 symptoms because of their age or pre-existing conditions; which LAs have a greater share of workers in shut-down sectors such as retail or hospitality; and which LAs have a greater share of children either eligible for free school meals or receiving children's social services, who might be at particular educational or social risk from the crisis.

Covid-19 and inequalities

[This report](#) aims to bring together what has emerged so far about the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on inequalities across several key domains of life. It argues that the years leading up to the Covid-19 crisis, and in particular the hangover from the last economic crisis of the late 2000s, had already left households in a precarious position.

Economic impact of coronavirus: gaps in support

This unanimously agreed [interim report of the inquiry into the economic impact of Covid-19](#) has identified key concerns relating to the following groups: those newly in employment or newly self-employed; those self-employed with annual trading profits in excess of £50,000; directors of limited companies; and freelancers or those on short-term contracts. The report makes a series of recommendations as to how the government could effectively address these concerns.

Local delivery: protecting social infrastructure

[This report](#) recommends that ministers must fund and empower local people to run vital community businesses and service hubs that can help neighbourhoods thrive beyond the immediate Covid-19 pandemic. It calls on central government to show consistency and political will in supporting grass roots community ventures - or risk hampering recovery by sapping the energy and enthusiasm of capable volunteers.

The mental health effects of the first two months of lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

[This report](#) discusses the impact of Covid-19 on mental health. It finds that mental health in the UK has worsened substantially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly for groups that already had lower levels of mental health before Covid-19, such as young adults and women.

BAME women and Covid-19: research evidence

[This analysis](#) from the Fawcett Society - together with the Women's Budget Group, Queen Mary University London, and the London School of Economics - reveals the pressure on BAME women during the coronavirus lockdown. Forty-three per cent of disabled or retired BAME women and 48 per cent of BAME men say that they had lost government support, compared with 13 per cent of white women and 21 per cent of white men. More than half (51 per cent) of BAME women say they were not sure where to turn for help, compared with one in five (19 per cent) of white women. This is despite the fact that BAME people have been found to be more at risk during the pandemic.

Health and Wellbeing Boards reset tool: support HWB chairs move into the next age of Covid-19

Local Government Association (LGA) has developed [this tool](#) to support the chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) in moving into the next stage of Covid-19. It states that the LGA can offer free bespoke support to HWBs during this 'reset phase', ranging from a telephone call to talk through issues and planning a meeting to a virtually facilitated workshop to help reset the HWB.

Carers Week 2020 research report: the rise in the number of unpaid carers during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak

The six Carers Week charities - Carers UK, Age UK, Carers Trust, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Oxfam GB and Rethink Mental Illness - [have published research](#) based on polling carried out by YouGov in May 2020 of 4,557 people over the age of 18 living in the UK. The figures show an estimated 4.5 million people in the UK have become unpaid carers as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is on top of the 9.1 million unpaid carers who were already caring before the outbreak, bringing the total to 13.6 million. 2.7 million women (59 per cent) and 1.8 million men (41 per cent) have started caring for relatives who are older, disabled or living with a physical or mental illness.

Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic

This [Centre for Mental Health briefing paper](#), supported by 13 other national mental health charities, explores the mental health inequalities that are associated with the pandemic in the UK. It finds that the virus and the lockdown are putting greater pressure on groups and communities whose mental health was already poorer and more precarious.

Department for Work and Pensions response to the coronavirus outbreak

This [House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee report](#) on the Department for Work and Pensions' response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak finds that the pandemic has left huge numbers of people struggling to cover the costs of essentials, with some disabled people in particular hit hard by increased costs of care and rising food prices.

Life after lockdown: tackling loneliness among those left behind

The Covid-19 crisis has made loneliness worse, with some people more affected than others. This [British Red Cross report](#) shows that although social distancing and lockdown measures will continue to be eased, loneliness will remain and for those most left behind, it may continue to grow.

The financial risk and resilience of English local authorities in the coronavirus crisis

The government has provided an additional £3.2 billion of general-purpose funding to English councils to help support them through the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis. This will increase their budgets by just over five per cent on average. But councils have warned a further £6 billion could be required. This [Institute for Fiscal Studies report](#) examines how financial risks and resilience vary across councils, and which types of councils and regions are most exposed. It is published alongside a spreadsheet dashboard that collates for each local authority in England a series of indicators of coronavirus-related risks.

Rainy days: an audit of household wealth and the initial effects of the coronavirus crisis on saving and spending in Great Britain

This [Resolution Foundation report](#) shows that those most at risk in the pandemic have the weakest private savings safety net to fall back on, while the crisis itself is exposing Britain's wealth gaps, and the ability of low-wealth households to weather the economic storm.

Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people

There are an estimated 395,000 problem gamblers in the UK, with a further 1.8 million people 'at risk'. The effects can have devastating consequences on people and their families, including financial loss, relationship breakdowns, criminality, and suicide. [This report](#) finds that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Gambling Commission have failed to adequately protect consumers at a time of considerable change in the sector, as gambling increasingly moves online, and new games become popular.

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Informal carers

[This House of Commons Library briefing paper](#) provides information about the number of informal carers in the UK and the issues they face. It also explains the rights, benefits and support available to informal carers as well as current and previous government policy on caring.

Coronavirus and loneliness, Great Britain: 3 April to 3 May 2020

The Office for National Statistics has [published an analysis of loneliness](#) in Great Britain during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

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Thanks, John